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Tilte: Need to expedite implementation of Traditional Forest Dwellers and Tribals Act, 2005 in West Bengal.

DR. TARUN MANDAL (JAYNAGAR): The forest dwellers, fishermen, tribals and other marginal people of my Constituency, Jaynagar, South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal do fishing in the sea and riverine belt of Sunderbans, collect dry woods and honey from the jungle for livelihood since long time. They are not endowed with their rights and licences as envisaged in Traditional Forest Dwellers and Tribals Act, 2005.

They are being harassed, fined, tortured, their livelihood tools and materials seized. They are frequently arrested and jailed by the Forest Guards, Tiger Reserve Forest Forces, Border Security Forces and Coastal Zone Guards thereby practically depriving them of their right to life. The past and the present Governments of West Bengal State have failed to implement the Act till today for the backward and underdeveloped regions of the State.

I would urge upon the Union Government and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to look into the matter and to take up the matter with the concerned authorities of the State administration and to ensure early implementation of above Act in West Bengal.